GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1744
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

e:

(a) the current production of newsprint paper in India annually;

(b) the requirement of news print paper annually;

(c) is any PSU in this field is technically and commercially competitive enough to sustain in the Global Competition; and

(d) if not, state the reasons for the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) : The current production of newsprint paper in India is 6.88 Lakh tonnes for the period 2003-2004.

(b) : The annual requirement of news print paper during the said period is 14.26 lakh tonnes approximately.

(c) & (d) : There are two newsprint manufacturing Central PSUs. The quality of newsprint manufactured by these Central PSU`s is technically sustainable in the global market. However, these units are finding it difficult in sustaining commercially on account of scale of operation being on the lower side, high power costs and other transaction costs arising out of poor infrastructure, non-availability of good quality fibrous raw material and low customs duty of 5% on the imported newsprint.